

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001917/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(8 May 2026)**

Subject: Risk of EU overtaxing property and stepping up economic surveillance of citizens

Many citizens, in particular the middle class and small and medium-sized entrepreneurs are deeply concerned by recent studies and Commission discussions on the taxation of net wealth, the increase of capital taxes, the interconnection of asset-related data and the use of mechanisms such as exit tax.

Behind technocratic terms such as ‘tax justice’ and ‘fighting inequalities’, one gradually begins to discern a broader political direction aiming to strengthen economic control over citizens and centralise tax powers at European level. Greek citizens have already felt on their own skin the effects of overtaxation, the memoranda, property tax (ENFIA) and continuous pressure on ownership and family assets.

Of particular concern is the potential creation of interconnected European asset monitoring mechanisms, which could further burden small-scale owners, family businesses and citizens seeking to transfer their tax residence or engage in investment activities.

1. Does the Commission intend to promote new forms of property taxation or harmonisation of capital taxes at European level?
2. Is the creation of pan-European mechanisms for the interconnection and monitoring of citizens’ asset-related data being considered?
3. Does the Commission acknowledge that direct taxation is a national competence that lies exclusively with the Member States?

Submitted: 8.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2026)**

The Commission published a study on wealth taxation ⁽¹⁾ offering an assessment of wealth-related taxes based on empirical evidence, comparative mapping and country case studies. Its findings confirm that there is no one-size-fits-all measure.

As set out in the 2025 Affordable Housing Plan ⁽²⁾, the Commission will continue to work with the Member States, including within the European Semester, to support tax reforms that improve housing availability and affordability while efficiently raising tax revenue.

The Commission published a study on the use of asset registers to combat tax evasion and money laundering ⁽³⁾. While the interconnection of such registers is technically feasible, this would need to be assessed against EU law, including the principle of necessity.

The directive on Administrative Cooperation (DAC) ⁽⁴⁾ in direct taxation is an efficient tool that already allows Member States to exchange cross-border information on non-resident owners of immovable property.

The Commission currently has no plans to interconnect national asset registers. Instead, the Commission favours the use of the instrument of the DAC and the wider access for tax authorities to national registers, including immovable property registers.

Under current EU law, direct taxation remains largely a Member State competence. Where no EU secondary legislation applies, Member States design their own tax systems autonomously, while complying with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, including the principles of non-discrimination and proportionality.

⁽¹⁾ European Commission, Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, Robaszewski, A. et al., *Wealth taxation, including net wealth, capital and exit taxes*, 2026, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2778/0817231>.

⁽²⁾ COM (2025) 1025 final.

⁽³⁾ European Commission, Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, Gojsic, D. et al., *Feasibility study for a European asset registry in the context of the fight against money laundering and tax evasion*, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2874/151361>.

⁽⁴⁾ Council Directive 2011/16/EU of 15 February 2011 on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Directive 77/799/EEC.